

Mr. Arthur Thomson, the Assistant-Superintendent of the Gardens, laid on the table a series of specimens of various Insects reared and exhibited in the Insect-house in the Society's Gardens during the past year, and read the following report on the subject:—

Report on the Insect-house for 1898.

Examples of the following species of Insects have been exhibited in the Insect-house during the past season:—

Silk-producing Bombyces and their Allies.

Asiatic.

<i>Attacus atlas.</i>	<i>Antheræa yama-mai.</i>
— <i>cynthia.</i>	— <i>pernyi.</i>
— <i>ricini.</i>	* <i>Actias leto.</i>
* — <i>pryeri.</i>	— <i>selene.</i>
<i>Caligula japonica.</i>	* — <i>artemis.</i>
* <i>Rhodia fugax.</i>	<i>Cricula trifenestrata.</i>
<i>Antheræa mylitta.</i>	

American.

<i>Attacus hesperus.</i>	<i>Hypochoera io.</i>
<i>Samia cecropia.</i>	* <i>Automeris rubescens.</i>
— <i>ceanothi.</i>	<i>Anisota stigma.</i>
<i>Telea polyphemus.</i>	<i>Eacles imperialis.</i>
— <i>promethea.</i>	— <i>regalis.</i>

African.

<i>Actias mimosæ.</i>	<i>Cirina forda.</i>
<i>Gyanisa isis.</i>	* <i>Lebeda koellikeri.</i>

Diurnal Lepidoptera.

European.

<i>Papilio podalirius.</i>	<i>Thais polyxena.</i>
— <i>machaon.</i>	— <i>cerisyi.</i>
<i>Doritis apollinus.</i>	<i>Charaxes jasius.</i>

American.

<i>Papilio zolicaon.</i>	<i>Papilio troilus.</i>
— <i>asterias.</i>	<i>Limenitis disippus.</i>
— <i>ajax.</i>	

Nocturnal Lepidoptera.

<i>Acherontia atropos.</i>	<i>Smerinthus excæcatus.</i>
<i>Sphinx ligustri.</i>	<i>Philampelus achemon.</i>
— <i>pinastri.</i>	<i>Deilephila vespertilio.</i>
— <i>carolina.</i>	— <i>galii.</i>
<i>Ceratonia undulosa.</i>	— <i>euphorbiæ.</i>
— <i>amyntor.</i>	— <i>nicæa.</i>
<i>Smerinthus tilie.</i>	— <i>alecto.</i>
— <i>ocellatus.</i>	— <i>elpenor.</i>
— <i>myops.</i>	<i>Darapsa myron.</i>

* Exhibited for the first time.

Of the Lepidopterous Insects which I have the honour to place before the meeting, *Attacus pryeri*, *Actias artemis*, *Rhodia fugax*, from Japan, *Actias leto* (females), from the Himalayas, and *Automeris rubrescens*, from Buenos Ayres, were exhibited for the first time during the past season.

I have received during the past three years cocoons of the beautiful Indian Moth *Actias leto* (the female of which is known as *Actias manas*); but with the exception of the last consignment (which was received on Dec. 26th) all the Moths emerged *en route*, and in this case I found that *all* the males had emerged. The box in which the cocoons were packed, being made of tin, was badly crushed in the post, but I was pleased to find that eleven cocoons contained living pupæ. They were immediately placed in the Insect-house, and on the 28th of December a fine and perfect specimen of the Moth emerged, and the remainder during the next fortnight. Three of the cocoons produced specimens of *Actias selene*. I regret to say that with the exception of the two perfect specimens which I exhibit this evening, and two others not quite perfect, all the Moths that emerged were useless cripples. This is, however, I believe, the first time that this species has been exhibited in Europe alive.

The specimens of *Rhodia fugax* were reared from ova received from Japan. The larvæ fed well upon willow and plum, and in due time spun their curious cocoons, some of which I exhibit, together with a sketch of the larva. When the Moths emerge they soften the opening of the cocoon, but, as will be seen, they harden again afterwards, and the cocoons have the same appearance as before the Moths emerged. The larvæ of this Moth make a curious squeaking noise when disturbed.

Together with the cocoons of *Actias mimosæ*, which we received from Delagoa Bay, was a small smooth cocoon. From this emerged the female specimen of *Lebeda koellikeri*, which I exhibit this evening. I have set the Moth in exactly the same position as that in which it rested on the virgin cork in the case, so as to show the curious shape of the upper margin of the under-wings.

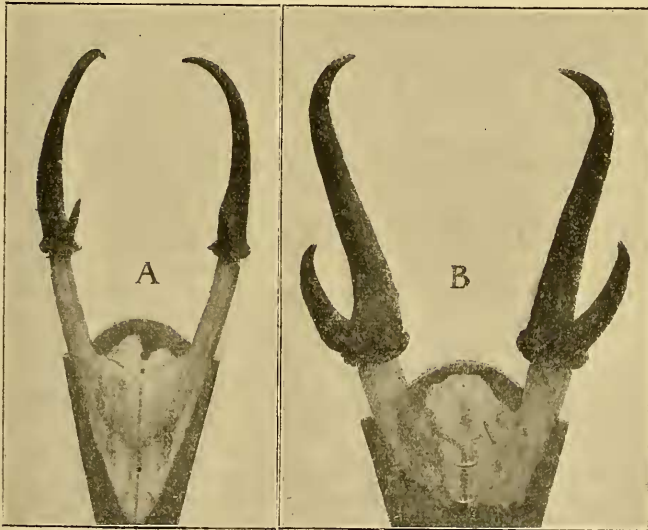
During the past season several specimens of the Goliath Beetle (*Goliathus druryi*) were received, but did not live very long. A specimen of "Rhinoceros" Beetle (*Oryctes boas*), from Port Elizabeth, was presented by Miss Matcham and Captain Travers on February 24, and lived till August 5. The specimen (which I exhibit) used to burrow in the sand very rapidly, and when doing so laid its horn back in the manner shown in the "setting." When walking about above the ground it carried the horn upright or nearly so. Its principal food was bananas.

One of the most remarkable inmates of the Insect-house at the present time is a very fine specimen of the Giant Centipede (*Scolopendra gigas*), from Trinidad, which was presented by Mr. R. R. Mole, July 7, 1898 (see P. Z. S. 1898, p. 587).

This Centipede, on arrival at the Gardens, was in rather poor condition, but it fed voraciously twice a week, and entirely con-

sumed a white mouse each time it fed. It improved rapidly, and after the first three weeks it fed only once a week, and it will now go for a fortnight without feeding. When a mouse is put in the Case the Centipede rears up upon its hinder legs and seizes the mouse immediately, behind the head, with its strong mandibles and the anterior five or six pair of legs. The mouse soon dies, no doubt from the Centipede's poisonous bite.

Mr. R. E. Holding exhibited and made remarks upon the horns of a Muntjac from Singapore, which greatly exceeded in size and weight those of the Indian Muntjac (*Cervulus muntjac*), the only species with which they could be compared. The horns exhibited (B), though distinctly cervuline in their general character, indicated considerable difference from the normal form of Muntjac horns, being 9 inches in length, the brow-tine $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, girth of



A. Indian Muntjac.

B. Specimen exhibited.

“pedicle” $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches,—the Indian Muntjac horns seldom exceeding $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the brow-tine not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The thickness and shortness of the pedicle, the width across the facial ridge, with other osteological characters, seemed to indicate an animal much larger, if not entirely distinct from the Indian species with which it was compared.

The following papers were read:—